

## Message Text

SECRET

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 101637Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6806

USMISSION NATO

INFO DIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T ROME 12414

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MARR, NATO, GR, IT, CY

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PROPOSALS RE FILLING SOUTHERN FLANK SECURITY GAPS

1. DURING DCM'S CONVERSATION WITH MFA NATO OFFICE CHIEF DA RIN WHICH FOCUSED ON NATO RESPONSES TO GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO (SEE SEPTTEL), DISCUSSION TURNED TO WHAT ITALY COULD DO TO HELP FILL SOUTHER FLANK SECURITY GAPS.

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2. IN MEETINGS PREPARATORY TO PRESIDENT LEONE'S VISIT SEPT

25-28 TO US, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING RANGE OF  
OPTIONS OPEN TO ITALY IN LIGHT OF NEW SITUATION IN MEDITERRANEAN.

3. PRESENT MFA BELIEF IS THAT ITALY SHOULD OFFER TO HELP FILL  
GAPS IN FIELDS SUCH AS RADAR, SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS, COMMUNICATIONS,  
ETC. WHERE ADDED US ACTIVITIES COULD BE SIMPLE ADD-ONS TO  
EXISTING OPERATIONS AND, THUS, LARGELY HIDDEN FROM PUBLIC VIEW.

4. DA RIN CONTINUED BY EXPRESSING OPINION THAT GLARING CHANGES  
SUCH AS HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT BE IN EITHER US OR  
ITALIAN INTEREST AND HE PRESUMED NO REQUEST OF THAT NATURE  
WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. HE THEN CHARACTERIZED LA MADDALENA  
EXPERIENCE AS BEING A NUISANCE AND STRAIN ON RELATIONS AND  
HYPOTHESIZED ABOUT HOW PROBLEMS WOULD BE MAGNIFIED IF WE TRIED  
FOR MORE AND LARGER SCALE HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENTS.

5. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF FULL SCALE PARLIAMENTARY  
DEBATE IN FALL ON ITALY'S ROLE IN NATO, DA RIN INDICATED THAT  
WHILE THERE MIGHT BE CONTINUING FACTIONAL POLEMICS REGARDING  
ADDITIONAL NATO AND US BASES IN ITALY, HE COULD NOT FORESEE  
A DEBATE ON FUNDAMENTALS OF ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY, AS FUNDAMENTALS  
PER SE LACK DRAMA NECESSARY TO KEEP PARLIAMENT OR PUBLIC  
INTERESTED IN SUCH A DEBATE MORE THAN A DAY OR TWO. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COLLECTIVE SECURITY, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, MILITARY PLANS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ROME12414  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740252-0183  
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**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ITALIAN PROPOSALS RE FILLING SOUTHERN FLANK SECURITY GAPS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, MARR, GR, IT, CY, NATO  
**To:** STATE NATO BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005